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Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

Note verbale dated 20 April 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the Chair

The Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and, with reference to Security Council resolutions 1673 (2006) and 1810 (2008), has the honour to submit additional information regarding national implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Please find enclosed an amended matrix, in which updated information is marked in red colour.*

Finland wishes to inform the Committee that relevant amendments to the Chemical Weapons Act (346/1997), the Nuclear Energy Act (990/1987), the Nuclear Energy Decree (161/1988), the Act on the Control of Exports of Dual-Use Goods (562/1996) and the Penal Code (39/1889) are reflected in the matrix, as is the Government Decree on Security in the Use of Nuclear Energy (734/2008) issued in 2008. As noted in the matrix, Finland acceded to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism in 2009 and joined the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism in 2007.

Additionally, Finland would also like to take this opportunity to give some additional information regarding assistance in place as listed in the matrix. First, Finland has supported the Henry L. Stimson Center project promoting the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in developing countries since 2006 and continues to do so. Through regional and national workshops and other activities, the initiative seeks to identify development needs relevant to the resolution's implementation and then match them with available assistance. Thus far, the initiative has promoted synergies between development cooperation and non-proliferation in the Caribbean and Central America, the Middle East and East Africa. The initiative works in close cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and the 1540 (2004) Committee and will target new regions in the coming years.

* The matrix mentioned in the present note verbale was transmitted to the secretariat of the Committee and may be consulted in its office.

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Second, Finland supports the implementation of Chemical Weapons Convention in developing countries and has offered training in chemical weapons verification since 1990 in order to prevent their proliferation. Reflective of the security/development model referred to above, the training also provides developing countries with skills in analytical chemistry applicable in other forums.

Third, Finland has participated in the Group of Eight Global Partnership programme by supporting the destruction of chemical weapons, the improvement of nuclear safety, the securing of nuclear material and the prevention of nuclear smuggling in Russia, Ukraine and the Kyrgyz Republic since 2004. Finland is committed to continuing its support to the evolving and expanding Global Partnership in the future.

20 April 2011